

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Dale, James D.	Art Unit:	3676
Appl. No:	10/696,984	Examiner:	Lugo, C.
File Date:	October 30, 2003	Docket No.:	1062/D74
Invention:	Door Locking Mechanism		

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of January 29, 2007, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A door locking system comprising:

an assembly including a latching structure;

a door movably coupled to the assembly, the door including a latch member for engagement with the latching structure, the door having a closed position in which the latching member and latching structure are engaged so that the door is latched to the assembly; and

a movable member coupled to the door for applying a force on the door relative to the assembly toward an opening direction of the door, the force operating to maintain engagement of the latching structure of the assembly with the latch member of the door to keep the door latched, wherein the movable member is operably coupled to contact an element positioned between the movable member and the assembly when applying the force, wherein the element includes at least a pump cassette.

Claims 2-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): A door locking system comprising:

an assembly including a latching structure having a first undercut feature;

a door movably coupled to the assembly, the door including a latch member having a second undercut feature for engagement with the first undercut feature, the door having a closed position in which the first and second undercut features are engaged so that the door is latched to the assembly; and

a movable member for applying a force on the door toward an opening direction of the door, the engaged undercut features preventing the door from opening when the opening force is applied, the force operating to maintain engagement of the first undercut

feature of the assembly with the second undercut feature of the door to keep the door latched, wherein the latch member includes a handle for operating the latch, the handle capable of pivoting to control alignment of the second undercut feature with the first undercut feature.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The door locking system according to claim 5, wherein the handle is substantially incapable of pivoting when the first undercut feature is engaged with the second undercut feature and the movable member is applying the force.

Claim 7-8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (previously presented): The door locking system according to claim 1, further comprising a handle for moving the latch member from an engagement position to a disengagement position for disengaging the latching structure and the latch member, wherein the handle is substantially incapable of moving the latch member from the engagement position to the disengagement position when the movable member is applying the force.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The door locking system according to claim 1, wherein the movable member includes an expandable member.

Claim 11 (original): The door locking system according to claim 10, wherein the expandable member is a bladder.

Claim 12 (original): The door locking system according to claim 1, further including a pneumatic circuit for controlling the movable member.

Claims 13-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended): A door locking system comprising:

an assembly including a latching structure having a first undercut feature;
a door movably coupled to the assembly, the door including a latch member having a second undercut feature for engagement with the first undercut feature, the door having a closed position in which the first and second undercut features are engaged so that the door is latched to the assembly; and
a movable member for applying a force on the door toward an opening direction of the door, the engaged undercut features preventing the door from opening when the opening force is applied, the force operating to maintain engagement of the first undercut feature of the assembly with the second undercut feature of the door to keep the door latched, further comprising an element positioned between the movable member and at least one of the assembly and the door, wherein the movable member is operably coupled to contact the element when applying the force, wherein the element includes at least a pump cassette.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The door locking system according to claim 19, ~~wherein the element is a pump cassette~~ further comprising a handle for moving the latch member from an engagement position to a disengagement position for disengaging the latching structure and the latch member, wherein the handle is substantially incapable of moving the latch member from the engagement position to the disengagement position when the movable member is applying the force.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A door locking system comprising:
an assembly having a first engagement means;
a door movably coupled to the assembly, the door including a second engagement means for engagement with the first engagement means, the door having a closed position in which the first and second engagement means are engaged so that the door is latched to the assembly; and
movable means coupled to the door for applying a force on the door relative to the assembly toward an opening direction of the door, the force operating to maintain engagement of the first engagement means of the assembly with the second engagement means of the door to keep the door latched, where the movable means is operably

coupled to contact an element positioned between the movable means and the assembly when applying the force, wherein the element includes at least a pump cassette.

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (original): The door locking system according to claim 21, further including a handle attached to the second engagement means.

Claim 24 (original): The door locking system according to claim 21, wherein the movable means includes an expandable member.

Claim 25 (original): The door locking system according to claim 24, wherein the expandable member is a bladder.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The door locking mechanism according to claim 21, further including a pneumatic circuit for controlling the movable means.

Claims 27-29 (canceled).

Claim 30 (currently amended): The door locking system according to claim 21, ~~wherein the movable means is operably coupled to contact an element positioned between the movable means and the assembly when applying the force~~ further comprising disengagement means for disengaging the first and second engagement means, wherein the disengagement means is substantially incapable of disengaging the first and second engagement means when the movable means is applying the force.

Claim 31 (canceled).

Claim 32 (currently amended): A door locking system comprising:
an assembly having a first engagement means, the first engagement means including a first undercut feature;

a door movably coupled to the assembly, the door including a second engagement means for engagement with the first engagement means, the second engagement means including a second undercut feature, the door having a closed position in which the first and second engagement means are engaged so that the door is latched to the assembly; and

movable means for applying a force on the door toward an opening direction of the door, the engaged undercut features preventing the door from opening when the opening force is applied, the force operating to maintain engagement of the first undercut feature of the assembly with the second undercut feature of the door to keep the door latched, further comprising an element positioned between the movable means and at least one of the assembly and the door, wherein the movable member is operably coupled to contact the element when applying the force, wherein the element includes at least a pump cassette.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The door locking system according to claim 32, ~~wherein the element is a pump cassette~~ further comprising disengagement means for disengaging the first and second engagement means, wherein the disengagement means is substantially incapable of disengaging the first and second engagement means when the movable means is applying the force.

Claim 34 (currently amended): A method of locking a door to an assembly with respect to which the door has an open position and a closed position, the method comprising:

engaging a latching structure of the assembly with a latch member of the door when the door is in the closed position so that the door is latched to the assembly; and

applying a force on the door relative to the assembly toward an opening direction of the door using a movable member coupled to the door, the force operating to maintain engagement of the latching structure of the assembly with the latch member of the door to keep the door latched, wherein applying the force includes placing the movable member in contact with an element positioned between the movable member and the assembly, wherein the element includes at least a pump cassette.

Claims 35-38 (canceled).

Claim 39 (previously presented): The door locking method according to claim 34, wherein the movable member includes an expandable member, and wherein applying the force includes expanding the expandable member.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The door locking method according to claim 39 wherein the expandable member is a bladder, and wherein expanding the expandable member includes pneumatically operating the bladder.

Claims 41-43 (canceled).

Claim 44 (currently amended): The door locking method according to claim 34, ~~wherein applying the force includes placing the movable member in contact with an element positioned between the movable member and the assembly~~ wherein at least one of the door and the assembly includes a handle for moving the latch member from an engagement position to a disengagement position for disengaging the latching structure and the latch member, and wherein the handle is substantially incapable of moving the latch member from the engagement position to the disengagement position when the force is being applied.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A method of locking a door to an assembly with respect to which the door has an open position and a closed position, the method comprising:

engaging a first undercut feature of the assembly with a second undercut feature of the door when the door is in the closed position so that the door is latched to the assembly; and

applying a force on the door toward an opening direction of the door, the engaged undercut features preventing the door from opening when the opening force is applied, the force operating to maintain engagement of the first undercut feature of the assembly

with the second undercut feature of the door to keep the door latched, wherein applying the force includes placing a movable member in contact with an element positioned between at least one of the assembly and the door, such that a force is generated on at least one of the assembly and the door, wherein the element includes at least a pump cassette.

Claim 46 (currently amended): The door locking method according to claim 45, ~~wherein the element is a pump cassette~~ wherein at least one of the door and the assembly includes a handle for disengaging the first and second undercut features, and wherein the handle is substantially incapable of moving disengaging the first and second undercut features when the force is being applied.

Claim 47 (currently amended): A method of locking a door to an assembly with respect to which the door has an open position and a closed position, the method comprising:

engaging a latching structure of the assembly with a latch member of the door when the door is in the closed position so that the door is latched to the assembly; and
inflating a bladder coupled to the door so as to apply a force on the door relative to the assembly toward an opening direction of the door, the force operating to prevent movement of the latch member of the door relative to the latching structure of the assembly, wherein inflating the bladder places the bladder in contact with an element positioned between the bladder and the assembly, wherein the element includes at least a pump cassette.

Claim 48 (new): A door locking system comprising:
an assembly including a latching structure;
a door movably coupled to the assembly, the door including a latch member for engagement with the latching structure, the door having a closed position in which the latching member and latching structure are engaged so that the door is latched to the assembly; and

a movable member coupled to the door for applying a force on the door relative to the assembly toward an opening direction of the door, the force operating to maintain engagement of the latching structure of the assembly with the latch member of the door to keep the door latched, further comprising a handle for moving the latch member from an engagement position to a disengagement position for disengaging the latching structure and the latch member, wherein the handle is substantially incapable of moving the latch member from the engagement position to the disengagement position when the movable member is applying the force.

Claim 49 (new): The door locking system according to claim 48, wherein the movable member includes an expandable member.

Claim 50 (new): The door locking system according to claim 49, wherein the expandable member is a bladder.

Claim 51 (new): The door locking system according to claim 48, further including a pneumatic circuit for controlling the movable member.

Claim 52 (new): A method of locking a door to an assembly with respect to which the door has an open position and a closed position, the method comprising:

engaging a latching structure of the assembly with a latch member of the door when the door is in the closed position so that the door is latched to the assembly; and
applying a force on the door relative to the assembly toward an opening direction of the door using a movable member coupled to the door, the force operating to maintain engagement of the latching structure of the assembly with the latch member of the door to keep the door latched, wherein at least one of the door and the assembly includes a handle for moving the latch member from an engagement position to a disengagement position for disengaging the latching structure and the latch member, and wherein the handle is substantially incapable of moving the latch member from the engagement position to the disengagement position when the force is being applied.

Claim 53 (new): The door locking method according to claim 52, wherein the movable member includes an expandable member, and wherein applying the force includes expanding the expandable member.

Claim 54 (new): The door locking method according to claim 53 wherein the expandable member is a bladder, and wherein expanding the expandable member includes pneumatically operating the bladder.

Claim 55 (new): The door locking method according to claim 47, wherein at least one of the door and the assembly includes a handle for moving the latch member from an engagement position to a disengagement position for disengaging the latching structure and the latch member, and wherein the handle is substantially incapable of moving the latch member from the engagement position to the disengagement position when the bladder is applying the force.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks/arguments.
2. Claims 1, 5-12, 19-21, 23-26, 30-34, 39, 40, and 44-47 were pending. Applicants have chosen to amend the claims in order to accept subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 1, 19, 20, 21, 30, 32, 33, 34, 44, 45, 46, and 47 have been amended; claims 7, 8, and 31 have been canceled; and new claims 48-55 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 5, 6, 9-12, 19-21, 23-26, 30, 32-34, 39, 40, and 44-55 are now pending. Applicants' amendment of the application should not be construed as agreement with the grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner or acquiescence thereto. Applicants reserve the right to pursue relinquished subject matter and/or additional subject matter in one or more continuing applications.
3. The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 6 are allowed.
Claims 5 and 6 have been retained without change.
4. The Examiner indicated that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 8 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claims 1 and 7, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 7 and 8, and claims 7 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 1 is now in allowable form. Claims 9-12, which depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, have been retained without change. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claims 9-12 are also in allowable form.

5. The Examiner indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 9 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 1, new claim 48, including all of the limitations of previously presented claims 1 and 9, has been added. Claim 48 is in allowable form. New claims 49-51, corresponding to claims 10-12, have also been added. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claims 49-51 are also in allowable form.

6. The Examiner indicated that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 20 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 19, claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 20. Claim 19 is now in allowable form. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claim 9. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claim 20 is also in allowable form.

7. The Examiner indicated that claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 31 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claims 21 and 30, claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 30 and 31. Claim 30 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claim 9. Claim 31 has been canceled. Claim 21 is now in allowable form. Claims 23-26, which depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 21, have been retained without change. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claims 23-26 and 30 are also in allowable form.

8. The Examiner indicated that claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 33 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 32, claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 33. Claim 32 has also been amended to provide antecedent basis for the undercut features. Claim 32 is now in allowable form. Claim 33 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claim 9. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claim 33 is also in allowable form.

9. The Examiner indicated that claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 46 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 45, claim 45 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 46. Claim 45 is now in allowable form. Claim 46 has been amended to incorporate limitations similar to those in claim 9. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claim 46 is also in allowable form.

10. Claim 34 is a method claim that corresponds generally with claim 1. Because the Examiner indicated that claims 8 and 9 contained allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 34 to comport with amended claim 1, specifically incorporating limitations from previously presented claims 44 and 8. Claims 39 and 40 have been retained without change. Claim 44 has been amended to incorporate limitations from previously presented claim 9. Applicants have also added new claim 52 comporting with new claim 48, specifically incorporating limitations from previously presented claims 34 and 9, and added new claims 53 and 54 corresponding to claims 39 and 40. Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons claims 8 and 9 were deemed to be allowable by the Examiner, claims 34, 39, 40, 44, and 52-54 are also allowable.

11. Claim 47 is a method claim that corresponds generally with claim 34. Because the Examiner indicated that claims 8 and 9 contained allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 47 in a manner similar to that of claim 34 and have added new claim 55 in a manner similar to amendment of claim 44. Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons claims 8 and 9 were deemed allowable by the Examiner, claims 47 and 55 are also allowable.

12. All pending claims are believed to be in a form suitable for allowance. Therefore, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the application. The Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, Jeffrey T. Klayman, if it will assist further examination of this application.

13. Applicants petition for a three month extension of time. Applicants request that deposit account number 19-4972 be charged for any fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this application.

Date: July 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

/Jeffrey T. Klayman, 39,250/

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